

Serial No. 09/458,322

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REMARKS

In response to a final Office Action mailed on June 6, 2003, applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination. This preliminary amendment accompanies that request.

By this amendment, claims 1-31 are canceled without prejudice and with reservation of all rights, including the right to re-file those or similar claims in this or in another application. Furthermore, claims 32-44 are added. Applicants submit that no new matter has been entered.

It is to be understood that the applicants, by canceling claims, do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the prior art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant responsive amendments.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are non-enabling, anticipated, or obvious under the respective provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, §102, and §103. Consequently, applicants believe that all these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of the subject application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone John M. Kelly or Eamon J. Wall, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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